

FEDERATION NEWS SHEET

Monthly Bulletin of the World's Student Christian Federation

JANUARY 1948

Issued from 13 rue Calvin, Geneva, Switzerland

Note to Editors of National Student Christian Movement Periodicals :

This information service is especially prepared for National S. C. M. publications. Please make use of it for the education of our membership in Federation matters. Credit notices are not required.

Headquarters Notes

Two Federation Secretaries are leaving at the beginning of the year on tours which will take them away from Geneva for many months. *John Coleman* set off on December 13th for the United States and Canada, later to visit New Zealand and Australia before returning to Geneva in June. *M. M. Thomas* leaves from Britain after the Westminster Conference in January for his own home in India, but later he hopes to visit several movements in Asia in preparation for the Asian Leaders' Conference in December 1948.

Federation literature circulation

December 15, 1947.

The Student World :

July 1946	2552
Dec. 1947	4048

Federation News Sheet :

July 1946	3764
Dec. 1947	5122

Friends of the Federation :

July 1946	1558
Dec. 1947	2129

<i>F.O.F. By Countries</i> :	1942	1946	1947
Australia	92	160	188
Canada	76	139	138
Great Britain	187	393	424
Holland	—	54	144
New Zealand	68	94	84
U.S.A.	212	600	962
Other Countries	89	118	189

The key figure is the one for *Friends of the Federation*, since many copies of *The Student World* are sent out free of charge. This is the first time we record over 2000 *Friends*. Holland has beaten New Zealand and Canada, and is rapidly making up on Australia!

Ecumenical Institute Château de Bossey, Geneva

Second Youth Leaders' Course

A three weeks course of ecumenical training for youth leaders is planned from the 22nd of April to the 14th of May, 1948.

The main courses will be :

1. The message of the Bible ;
2. The Churches and the Ecumenical Movement ;
3. Social and mental background of the young worker.

There will be seminars and discussion groups on Christian youth work in the countries represented and on the main problems of youth work.

The aim of the course is not to give technical training in youth work, but to help youth leaders to see their work in an ecumenical setting and to give them fresh understanding of the Christian message in relation to other forces which are influencing youth today.

Three Messages Received by the General Secretary

From the first Baltic Christian Students' Congress, Rendsburg :

"The Baltic Christian Students, having assembled to their first Congress deeply grateful to you for your great support in their work, send you the most heartfelt greetings with the word of our Lord : So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another (Romans xii, 5)."

Signed by Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian representatives.

From Bratislava, Czechoslovakia :

"Kuzmany Circle Evangelical Students' Association celebrating 20 years jubilee of its duration is greeting W.S.C.F. — General meeting."

From the German Student Missionary Movement :

"For the first time since the war our movement can meet. We are holding three conferences at the same time in October in Bad Boll, Hermannsburg and Berlin. The main theme is : *Jesus Christ, the Lord of the World*. We are trying to realize what this call means in our time, and at the same time we want to inspire our students to work personally for missions at home and abroad. God has given us a true sense of community at our conferences. We thank and praise Him for everything He has given to the International Missionary Council at the Conference at Whitby. We send our most cordial greetings to you and the whole Federation, especially to all the student missionary movements in the Federation."

Signed by thirty delegates.

Japan

Summer conference of the Student Department of the Y.M.C.A.

Our whole year's efforts in the reorientation of the student work had been rewarded with the unusually big attendance of 165 at the above conference which was held at Tozanso for 5 days. We thought that 100 would be a very optimistic figure against 72 of last year's attendance, but 54 college and university Y.M.C.A.s sent their delegates to make this conference one of the biggest in the last ten years. More than half of these students paid their expenses themselves,

in whole or in part, and among them several had to work in some way or other to earn to make that possible.

The lectures and discussions were centered around the main theme of the conference "Present-Day World and our Faith in the Church" and the dominant interests of students were manifestly reverting from the fundamental questions of faith to the society that surrounded them. Unfamiliarity of students, in general, with the procedure of discussion, often needed thoughtful guidance of the leaders to accomplish constructive thinking, and Dr. Hachiro Yuasa, President of the conference, forcefully directed them to enlarge their awareness of Christian responsibility to the present world situation. Prof. S. H. Franklin, of the Japan Theological Seminary, emphasized, in his lecture, that the soundness of one's faith would inevitably find its expression in the constructive social and economic programs, which would improve the human society. As one outcome of his appeal the students from agricultural schools pledged themselves to form a special group to do their utmost in rural evangelization as a student body.

Italy

From a letter of December :

At the Turin conference recently we had more than fifty Italians, three Swiss, one Frenchman and one from the Netherlands.

The programme was perhaps a little heavy... also we were accused of intellectualism. Perhaps that is going too far, for certainly we were facing the thorniest problems of the day and we felt we had to probe deeply into them with the most searching analysis. What does distinguish us from our intellectual friends who frequently limit themselves to a strictly technical analysis of phenomena is just this : we have a starting point and an orientation which are both concrete and perfectly clear, namely our Christianity. The conference was of a cultural nature, because it was addressed equally to the non-Christian students of Turin, but the discussion often passed on to the historical plane, and we had often to prescribe limits in that direction in case it should leave the subject behind. This is a significant fact and gave us elements for future meetings. These will become easier as the experience and community life of the Movement develop.

We plan two further conferences, at Gavinana in April, and in Milan in November.

Burma

From a letter :

Soon after our return from Lundsberg, we had a Rangoon Christian Youth Rally sponsored by S.C.U. It was a gathering of nearly a thousand Christian young people of different races and denominations. Those church elders interested in the aspiration of youth were also present. The whole gathering was greatly impressed by the report of our interesting and invaluable experience of that memorable gathering in common affirmation that JESUS CHRIST IS LORD. Christians from all walks of life are infused with a new awakening and a new sense of consciousness for a better and a happier world. In April, S.C.U. is intending to have a Summer Camp in Rangoon, expecting delegations from Siam, Malaya, Ceylon, Pakistan and India. We hope it will be the most opportune moment for M. M. Thomas to visit us. After that Camp, we have our All Burma Bible Assembly at Maymyo, a Hill station in Upper Burma. The theme of the Assembly will be JESUS IS LORD.

In preparation for an independent National Movement of our own we have contacted with other S.C.U.s

in Malaya and Siam. But until now we have not heard anything from them. We had already formed S.C.U.s in State Teachers' Training College, Medical College and Seminary School. The students there are enthusiastic. With our help and advice they have started functioning the activities of their Unions.

... About my trip back to Burma. I had enjoyed it under the mighty wings of St. Paul (the Lutheran missionary plane! Ed.). We had a closer and more intimate friendship with one another. At the hotel, the dinner tables and on the plane itself, we had a chance to know more about the activities, workings and problems of other S.C.M.s. I remember the night at Lydda aerodrome in Palestine. Others had gone to the entertainment given by the Secretary of Army Y.M.C.A. about a couple of miles from the aerodrome. Six of us, two from China, one from Ceylon, one from Indonesia, one from Siam and myself discussed ways and means of bringing about closer contact and better relationships amongst ourselves. We had exchanged the addresses and promised one another to send the news sheets or the organ of their own Movements.

China

From Report by Kiang Wen-Han on a Y.M.C.A. Student Secretaries' Conference, Oct. 1947 :

We had about thirty-five people, representing fifteen different cities. Of these, I knew only about a dozen before I left China for America in January, 1945. It shows that there is an infiltration of new blood in the post-war years...

Most of the delegates had to come to the conference by plane, and most of the places are critically affected by the civil war. In spite of the political and economic difficulties, we learned that there are unprecedented opportunities for Christian work among the students. We divided our discussions for the three days roughly as follows: for the first day we concentrated our discussions on "Christian Evangelism and Service in Government Universities". More concretely we dealt with the multiple problems relating to the Student Christian Centers. On the second day, we exchanged our experiences in the tremendous "Student Relief Program" and shared our views regarding its future policy. On the third day, we discussed the various problems concerning the Chinese S.C.M. The conference was closed with an impressive candle-light service.

... Some raised the question whether there is at present a Chinese Student Christian Movement. The consensus was that the war years had reduced the Chinese S.C.M. to a local movement with only a national hook-up of secretaries. In the face of political realities, the S.C.M. has not put forth any clearcut position or given any positive national guidance. The torrential currents of the general student movement have somewhat swamped the S.C.M. Furthermore, the old student leaders of the S.C.M. have graduated and the reverse migration of the colleges to the coast has literally shaken the old foundations. There is no lack of vitality in the new student generation but the almost absolute lack of knowledge of the S.C.M. is not helping to exert any important Christian influence in the universities. It was frankly confessed that even some of the student secretaries do not have a full understanding of the S.C.M. The task of S.C.M. education seems to be timely and important...

What is Student Work? Mine is a simple answer. "Student Work is Christian work among students": Unless we have done our part in leading the students to "understand the Christian faith and live the Chris-

tian life", we have really failed as student secretaries. During the last few years, we have been over-burdened with the student relief program. Not a few of us have given the major portion of our time to meet the physical needs of our students. This student relief work has been in many ways a blessing to us. For one thing, it has helped us to gain a foothold in the Government universities. Ten or fifteen years ago, it would be unthinkable to have a Student Christian Center on the campus of a Government university. Now they are well established in eight or nine outstanding Government universities.

Hungary

From a report of the Magyar Evangeliumi Keresztény diák-Szövetség (formerly Pro Christo):

We wanted to arrange an Eastern European conference from July 13th to 21st, together with our neighbours. But at that time the political situation was so critical that we could not manage the difficulties of travelling and so it became impossible to arrange what we wanted. But in spite of this forty students and some professors spent the week together and talked over the questions of Eastern Europe.

From August 11th to 17th we made a conference for the first year students. This was a new experiment and we wanted first of all to get acquainted with those who will live in our Student Home. At the same time we had a camp for the leaders of the Protestant Boy-Scouts with 100 campers. The memory of the Bible-circles with these boy-scout leaders of about 16-20 years of age, is still very lively in our mind. Since then we have the opinion that scouting is a mission for growing youth. It is an excellent expedient to make Jesus Christ known to the boys. This camping had such an effect on the leaders of the boy-scout movement that they got new strength and have meetings as they had them at their camp.

... On October 20th, our Seniors had their usual meeting where after the Bible-circle held by Prof. Karacsony, Maria Vida made a report of her experiences in Russia. She said very interesting things and talked with love about the Russians. She asked us to pray for those friends of hers with whom she read the Bible and prayed. We had a student evangelization on October 21st, 22nd and 23rd. Prof. Karacsony was the lecturer through the three days and talked about "Liberty" in the presence of 250 students each night. In his interesting lecture, he expounded the history of the principle of liberty and after that he made us understand the effort for independence in the Ancient and Middle Ages and after this he made clear that in our age the perspectives widened to the uttermost. In consequence of this the cause is so far from the effect that the idea of liberty cannot be reached by our intellect. He invited everybody present who is eager in this chaotic age to know more about this leading principle which means liberty for us, to come to the Student Christian Movement. Since that time our Bible-circles made great progress. That week the same professor made a long discussion extending into the night hours on "The Church and Democracy" at the Student Home.

Philippines

An Oslo delegate writes :

Two hours after I docked I made my maiden speech on Oslo and chaired the program planning committee for our coming Baguio conference to be held from December 26-31, 1947. Our theme is "Today's Challenge to Youth". This is our third post-war national

student conference, under the auspices of the Conference Delegates' Association, the student Y.M.-Y.W.C.A. organisation.

The committee subdivided the main theme into four topics indicated by a leading question :

1. What is present-day society like ? This will be an analysis of the present, the good and bad, Christian or non-Christian. With the international situation as a background, we decided on a close study of national and university questions, inasmuch as only a strong nationalism leads to true and genuine internationalism.

2. What do you want it to be like ? We then pass on from the situation and ask the conferrees what they want in to-morrow's world.

3. What have I done ? Having thus set the goal, with a fairly comprehensive grasp of today's conditions, the delegate asks himself this question. It will be a self-searching and self-asking day. This will likewise be the day for me to speak on Oslo.

4. What should I do ? It is indeed almost impossible to find one single solution or a complexity of solutions to cure all ills of our country, but would not we be recreant to our duties and responsibilities if we permit a recognition of these limitations to dissuade us from trying ?

U. S. A.

From the N.I.C.C. : A Call to Christian Revolution

An inquiry into the nature and the purpose of the movement.

From the sense of community that we have achieved through sharing at N.I.C.C. our deep concerns and the tragedies of the world situation, we have felt ourselves too to be caught up in a social and religious crisis. Through our analysis we have discovered that we may be more the products of a decadent society than the prophets of a new social order based on the principles of Christianity. We have come to the realization that in spite of America's ability to satisfy material wants, individual persons share with those of physically impoverished lands widespread psychological, physical and spiritual insecurity and disintegration. We further discover that we as individuals are so enmeshed in deep-rooted social patterns that we often find ourselves doing "evil that we would not do". Therefore we have come to the conclusion that the presuppositions for a capitalistic society are no longer a valid basis for adequate social change.

In the light of God's call for our Movement, we confess that we have not adequately disciplined ourselves in worship, study and action.

We believe that God in His Grace not only gives to individuals serenity in the midst of chaos and salvation from the depths of despair, but has also willed that man may have life abundant with deep joy and noble usefulness.

On the basis of the following presuppositions of an old and dying social order, and in terms of our Christian faith, what are the penetrating questions which we must face today in regard to these three categories : Ourselves, Our Movement (local more important than national), Our society ?

Presuppositions :

1. White domination is to be taken for granted.
2. War is a necessary evil.
3. "I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul."
4. An individual by himself can make a difference in society.
5. Serving your own good automatically leads to the good of all men.
6. A nation can live to itself alone.

WORLD STUDENT RELIEF

Dear Reader,

A few weeks ago we had a meeting of the Standing Committee of World Student Relief. As I sat in the chair and listened to report after report, I found myself fascinated by the variety of our enterprises and the ingenuity of student relief committees.

The humble peanut has come into its own and become the gold coinage of nutrition in China. The microscope, or precision instrument, arrives by plane over the mountains of Burma, and starts a run-down laboratory going again. The standard library with its thirty books, which everyone wants to read, becomes the prized possession of a European seat of learning and rapidly achieves a waiting list of readers until the end of 1949. The bed for a T.B. patient from any of half a dozen countries is quoted like an unattainable share in the stock exchange, which may come down if that other sanatorium is made available.

Call for the observance of the Universal Day of Prayer for Students

Sunday, 15th February 1948

Scripture passage: 2 Corinthians, Chapter 4.

"Perplexed"

"We are troubled on every side... We are perplexed... persecuted... cast down..." These words will describe our generation of students which is drifting, helpless and bewildered, through a life which has ceased to hold meaning and sense of direction, but only a nameless fear of impending disaster. We fear economic and social insecurity, political confusion, devastation with little hope of reconstruction, and the agony of so many of our fellow-students. What is the answer to the breakdown of moral standards and the rejection of spiritual values? To the disintegration of the university, the disunity of the church, the clamouring of rival ideologies, the conflict of loyalties? Ours is a world of division, mistrust, and hate, which has found a terrible new power for destruction, and gross darkness seems to cover its peoples.

At the Oslo Conference, these tensions and perplexities struck us more forcibly as nations became personalised; and the fact that some countries could not be represented at all demonstrated the greater tensions without. A deeper understanding of the problems brought home to us the shallowness of our own ready-made answers and easy solutions, and our bewilderment seemed only to increase. We wanted so badly to save the world, and we could not. We became thoroughly disillusioned about ourselves, and rediscovered the terrible force of sin and evil.

"But not in Despair"

But we rediscovered something else at Oslo, too. We found a fellowship in Christ which could not be broken. We saw more clearly the chaos and sin of the World, but we discovered, also, that God's last word concerning man is not one of condemnation but of redemption, and of deliverance "from the bondage of creation into the glorious liberty of the children of God". By the mercy of Christ, Who humbled Himself even unto death for our sins, and Who rose victorious from the dead, the love of God redeems us from our despair. We know how deeply the world is involved in disaster, but we know, also, the saving

O Lord, thou hast entrusted us with the glad tidings of thy salvation. May we never live to ourselves in self-contained contentment, keeping to the old trodden paths, but seek ever new ways to forward thy cause and serve our fellow-students. Make us to be truthful and joyous messengers of thy redeeming love and grant unto thy servants to speak thy Word with boldness.

Amen.

The mimeographing machine in Hungary, which produces books of thirty titles and 20,000 copies, makes it just possible for the poor student to pass his exams, and incidentally brings toppling down the scarcity price of the few remaining books in the shops. The learned foreign review in the hostel library finds itself the only copy in North Italy. The ton of fat achieves such an importance in Germany that the university administrator will use his precious petrol to come across country to fetch it. And the man behind all this is the student we heard of, who, unlike the hackneyed symbol of poverty, does not even own the clothes he stands up in, for they are borrowed from his neighbour.

That is World Student Relief in this year of grace. Are you sure that you are contributing all you can?

Yours,

ROBERT C. MACKIE.

power of Christ. We know that we have not got the answer to the world's needs, but we know where that answer is to be found. For the Risen Christ is Lord, and that means nothing less than that He actually rules the world.

"For we preach Christ Jesus the Lord"

Jesus Christ is Lord. This means that He is not only our Lord, but our neighbour's. This faith is given to us, not in order that we should be happy with it for ourselves, but that we should share it with others. It is not an opiate to be swallowed, it is the only dynamic power of liberation which can break down the blinding barriers of nihilism and despair, and free men from their bondage.

Our constant danger is that we forget that every man and woman, every student in our universities and colleges, is summoned to accept His Kingdom, and that we are called to show forth His redeeming love and mercy which know no limitation. We cannot save the world, but we *must* do our utmost to lead our fellow-students to Him who is their Saviour. Our task is clear and it is urgent.

Let us, on this Day of Prayer, pray that we may have a deeper faith in the Lordship of Christ, and a stronger courage to confess that faith before our fellow-students. Let us pray that God, in His love and mercy, will use the World's Student Christian Federation and all its members, faithless and imperfect though we be, in His work of redeeming the world. We have been given a sacred ministry. Let us pray that we faint not, that those whose eyes have been blinded by suffering, bewilderment, perplexity and chaos, may see the light of the glorious gospel of Christ.

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

The Officers of the World's Student Christian Federation:

W. A. VISSER 'T HOOFT,	REINHOLD VON THADDEN,
ELEANOR FRENCH,	LUTHER TUCKER,
KIANG WEN-HAN,	HIEL BOLLINGER,

ROBERT MACKIE.

Prayers

Our Father, who hast given thy Son to reconcile the world unto thyself and to abolish the walls of partition between classes, races and nations, may our ministry in the World's Student Christian Federation be a ministry of reconciliation. In times of strife and tension, of wars and rumours of war, may our unity in thee remain unbroken, our faith in thee unshaken.

Amen.